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## AFRICA.

*Smallpox in Monrovia.*

LEGATION UNITED STATES,  
*Monrovia, Liberia, March 3, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the intelligence that we have several cases of smallpox in the city of Monrovia, Liberia. No special effort is being made to prevent its wide spread.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

OWEN L. W. SMITH,  
*Minister Resident and Consul-General.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

## BRAZIL.

*Sanitary report from Rio—Annual report for 1898.*

RIO DE JANEIRO, *March 13, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you my official report for the week ended March 3: There were 400 deaths from all causes, an increase of 15 as compared with the foregoing week; 32 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, an increase of 8; 51 deaths from yellow fever, an increase of 10; 4 deaths from smallpox, an increase of 3; 4 deaths from typhoid fever, the same as before; 1 death from measles, an increase of 1; 3 deaths from beriberi, the same as before, and 50 deaths from tuberculosis, a decrease of 7.

*Annual report for 1898.*—I have the honor to submit the following report on the health of Rio de Janeiro for the year 1898:

You will find the following tables: (1) Deaths in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in the year 1898; (2) Deaths according to nationality; (3) Births in Rio de Janeiro in 1898; (4) Deaths of children; (5) Meteorological observations; (6) Ship notices.

I feel under obligation to thank the authorities, especially the *directoria geral de Saude publica*, for all the information so courteously extended to me whenever I had occasion to call for it.

The most important factor in forming a correct estimate of these figures is the knowledge of the number of inhabitants of Rio de Janeiro. The sanitary authorities estimate for last year the number at 750,000, and for the present year (1899) 768,000. In my report published in No. 1 of the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, I have mentioned the declarations of the director, Prof. Dr. Nuno de Andrade, showing the reasons which have induced him to make the estimate of 750,000 for the population in 1898. Of course that has not the importance of a census—it is but an estimate. I have applied a different standard for making a calculation. According to information furnished by the City Improvements Company, which has a contract for the sewerage service of Rio de Janeiro and its suburbs, there are about 55,000 houses. It may be permissible to estimate on an average 10 to 12 persons for each house; hence there results an estimate for Rio de Janeiro of from 550,000 to 650,000 inhabitants. Of course all such estimates may be contested because they result from what is more or less conjectural.

The statistics of the number of deaths are entirely correct. The number was 15,835, including stillbirths to the number of 1,088; the number of deaths, exclusive of stillbirths, then was 14,747. For

the number of 750,000 inhabitants the death rate would be 19.6 per cent, for that of 650,000, 22.7 per cent, and if we estimate the number of inhabitants at Rio de Janeiro at only 550,000, the death rate would be 26.8 per cent.

In my opinion, based on personal observations as a physician, the death rate at Rio de Janeiro is a little higher than that of larger cities in Europe. Much is said here, it is true, from time to time, in regard to the longevity of persons, but cases of longevity are rare. However, my personal experience proves that here people of advanced age are not met in the same proportion as in countries which have a temperate climate. There is no doubt that the resisting force of the organs is reduced in the tropics.

In the annual report for the year 1897 some incorrect figures have inadvertently been admitted. These have been corrected in the report now presented for 1898 by the medical authorities, from whose reports these figures were taken.

The increase in the population of Rio de Janeiro is in the main the results of arrivals.

During the year 1897, 13,915 living children were born, and during 1898, 13,992; this represents only an increase of 77.

During the year 1897 the difference between the number of deaths and births was 734; during last year the number of deaths was higher by 755 than that of the births. It may be mentioned that in Rio de Janeiro many of the deaths reported are those of transient residents.

Compared with the preceding year the total number of deaths show an increase of 1,548. The number of deaths from yellow fever was 919 more than in 1897, and there was an increase of 29 in the number of deaths from smallpox.

If we compare the percentage of deaths from different causes with the total mortality, we find the following figures for the year 1898 and the preceding year.

This proportion was, for tuberculosis, 1897, 16.9 per cent; 1898, 17.6 per cent; for beriberi, 1897, 2.1 per cent; 1898, 1.8 per cent; for cancer, 1897, 1.2 per cent; 1898, 1.3 per cent; for apoplexy and softening of brain, 1897, 2.4 per cent; 1898, 2.2 per cent; for heart and arterial diseases, 1897, 12 per cent; 1898, 11.6 per cent; for pneumonia, 1897, 1.7 per cent; 1898, 1.65 per cent; for Bright's disease, 1897, 1.8 per cent; 1898, 1.8 per cent.

The foregoing shows that there is proportionally a small increase in the number of deaths from tuberculosis. The absolute figures of the number of deaths from this disease were during 1897, 2421; 1898, 2593; increase, 172.

During the past year yellow fever has been confined to a less extensive area, but has been of a more malign character, as I have had occasion to mention repeatedly in my reports.

In the reports of the authorities *febris perniciosa*, *febris remittens paludosa*, *febris typho-malarica*, and *impaludismo chronico* are especially registered. It is self-evident that from the etiological cause the three last diseases could be classified together. I have included them all under the head of "malaria." I have also shown in my tables the cases of pernicious fever in a special column. It is to be regretted that Brazilian physicians use so vague a term, which does not rest upon a uniform anatomical alteration. Does it belong to yellow fever, malaria, insolation, etc.?

According to the official statements there died from malarial infection

during 1897, 1,212 persons and during 1898, 1,421 persons. If we add the figures relating to malaria and those relating to pernicious fever, then we have a total of 10.9 per cent in proportion to the general mortality for 1898, against 8 per cent for 1897. Therefore the most important diseases to be taken into consideration for Rio de Janeiro are, in the first place, tuberculosis, and afterwards malaria and diseases of the heart and the arteries; yellow fever represents an occasional important factor.

In the table of deaths according to nationalities we observe for foreigners a relatively higher rate in the increase than for the natives. The general increase of the foreign population in Rio de Janeiro produces, also, an absolute increase in the number of deaths for all the different nationalities. We may be permitted to suppose that the relative increase in the number of deaths of foreigners results from yellow fever, whose development is due, in a great measure, to the foreign population, which is more subject to the disease than Brazilians.

The proportion of births to the population makes a more unfavorable showing.

From official data it appears that there were, for the year 1897, per 1,000 persons, 20.4 births, against 18.6 for 1898. May it not be presumed that the increase in the population was not as great (71,000) as the health authorities lead us to believe?

The proportion of the births of illegitimate to that of legitimate children was, for 1897, 28.9 per cent, and for 1898, 32 per cent.

During the year 1897 there died 2,880 children up to 1 year old; during the year 1898 there died 2,814. Therefore, the death rate of children to the living born has improved this year, being 18 per cent against 20 per cent in 1897.

The statistics of the health authorities show for children the following principal diseases: Fraquezia congenita (innate weakness), 291 cases; athrepsia, 397 cases, and further, enteritis infantil, 982 cases. I have included under the head of athrepsy all the deaths reported from those three causes for the purpose of giving a general idea of these diseases that are analagous and very dangerous for young children. If we consider that these diseases attack only children not over 1 year, it is evident that 59 per cent of the deaths among children of that age were caused by insufficient nourishment.

Special consideration should be given to the trismus nascentium. From that cause there died 156 children, *i. e.* 1.1 per cent of the number born. Considering that by that disease are attacked only children up to 1 month old, then it is seen that of 740 children who died during the year 1898, not over the above-mentioned age, 21.8 per cent have died of trismus. That is an important fact in political economy. In the present state of medical sciences we may consider that trismus nascentium is one of the avoidable diseases.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health of this office: March 11, steamship *Wordsworth*, Belgian, for New York; ship *Americana*, Hawaiian, for New York. March 13, steamship *Kaffir Prince*, British, for New York; steamship *Asti*, German, for New York.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,  
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

## [Inclosure.]

## (1) Deaths in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in the year 1898.

Months.	Yellow fever.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet fever.	Pernicious fever.	Diphtheria and croup.	Beriberi.	Typhoid fever.	Dysentery.	Malaria.	Tuberculosis.	Purulent and septic infection.
January.....	22	3	.....	.....	80	.....	31	8	4	65	230	15
February.....	90	.....	1	.....	94	1	26	8	3	72	203	6
March.....	255	.....	1	.....	133	.....	43	11	7	123	219	2
April.....	287	.....	.....	.....	111	.....	62	18	13	124	209	6
May.....	186	.....	.....	.....	79	1	38	15	12	87	224	2
June.....	78	.....	.....	.....	50	3	19	9	20	91	195	6
July.....	65	.....	.....	.....	28	1	16	9	19	58	184	9
August.....	34	.....	.....	.....	33	1	3	3	12	40	216	8
September.....	19	7	.....	.....	33	.....	6	6	7	33	212	9
October.....	13	13	.....	.....	31	.....	11	5	4	37	256	9
November.....	8	21	3	.....	48	.....	7	10	6	42	213	8
December.....	21	21	5	.....	66	.....	10	6	11	44	232	12
Total 1898.....	1,078	65	10	.....	786	.....	272	95	118	821	2,593	105
Total 1897.....	159	36	20	2	.....	17	300	80	60	.....	2,421	107
Increase.....	919	29	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	15	58	.....	172	.....
Decrease.....	.....	.....	10	2	.....	.....	28	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

## (2) Deaths in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in the year 1898.

Months.	Cancer.	Alcoholism.	Meningitis.	Apoplexy and ramollissement of brain.	Trismus nascentium.	Heart disease.	Diseases of the arteries.	Broncho-pneumonia.	Pneumonia.	Athrepsy.	Bright's disease.	Suicide.	From all causes.
January.....	12	2	43	23	18	115	29	56	15	165	8	6	1,295
February.....	11	3	31	37	17	104	39	59	12	173	28	4	1,305
March.....	20	6	72	38	12	106	52	73	13	173	30	4	1,767
April.....	15	4	36	25	12	93	45	68	16	128	24	5	1,655
May.....	21	1	40	35	11	121	42	77	30	177	38	10	1,601
June.....	16	1	26	23	12	121	51	86	32	136	30	3	1,364
July.....	15	2	25	20	14	99	62	85	27	143	16	4	1,249
August.....	16	2	31	20	10	67	48	72	21	147	17	6	1,089
September.....	17	.....	23	28	11	85	29	69	24	88	15	4	977
October.....	23	1	34	20	10	103	40	85	18	88	19	5	1,132
November.....	8	.....	40	28	10	80	44	109	14	110	16	10	1,115
December.....	15	5	48	21	19	82	49	107	21	142	23	6	1,286
Total 1898.....	189	27	448	318	156	1,176	530	946	243	1,670	264	67	15,835
Total 1897.....	168	53	393	341	192	1,101	621	949	236	.....	237	36	14,287
Increase.....	21	.....	55	.....	.....	75	.....	.....	7	.....	27	31	1,548
Decrease.....	.....	26	.....	23	36	.....	91	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

## Mortality for the year—

1898, for 1,000, by a population calculated 750,000 inhabitants.....	19.6
1898, for 1,000, by a population calculated 650,000 inhabitants.....	22.7
1897, for 1,000.....	19.4

## Mortality from—

Yellow fever in 1898 for 1,000 inhabitants, 1.4 respectively.....	1.66
Malarial fever in 1898 for 1,000 inhabitants, 1.09 respectively .....	1.26
Tuberculosis in 1898 for 1,000 inhabitants, 3.4 respectively.....	3.9
Pernicious fever in 1898 for 1,000 inhabitants, 1.05 respectively.....	1.2

## Percentage of deaths from—

Tuberculosis to the total mortality.....	17.6
Malarial, including pernicious fever.....	10.9
Yellow fever.....	7.3
Beriberi.....	1.8
Cancer.....	1.3
Apoplexy and ramollescence of brain .....	2.2
Heart and arterial diseases.....	11.6
Pneumonia.....	1.65
Bright's disease.....	1.8

## (3) Deaths according to nationality.

Month.	Brazilians.	Portuguese.	Italians.	Spaniards.	Germans.	British.	French.	Other Euro- peans.	Eng- lish- speaking Americans.	Spanish- Americans.	Turkish- Arabians.	Other Asiat- ics.	Africans.	Nationality unknown.
January.....	981	186	28	39	6	1	9	3	1	2	.....	1	30	8
February.....	914	212	61	58	5	3	7	12	3	3	1	.....	14	12
March.....	1,099	356	106	112	9	9	17	10	4	5	9	2	19	10
April.....	1,001	341	120	105	9	4	17	13	4	10	2	.....	21	18
May.....	1,023	322	102	89	12	5	10	7	1	1	.....	.....	21	8
June.....	912	268	55	57	3	1	12	7	1	7	7	.....	24	10
July.....	897	199	42	34	4	5	10	9	.....	8	2	.....	25	14
August.....	816	167	35	12	6	2	11	3	1	2	2	.....	18	6
September.....	703	173	30	25	2	2	3	4	.....	5	.....	.....	18	12
October.....	855	181	20	22	5	1	4	6	.....	7	3	1	14	13
November.....	869	158	19	23	2	5	4	5	1	2	1	.....	18	8
December.....	996	180	25	24	1	5	10	2	.....	1	3	1	22	19
Total.....	11,066	2,743	643	600	64	48	114	81	16	53	30	5	244	138
1897.....	10,783	2,152	261	349	43	34	82	68	9	33	14	19	246	194
Increase.....	283	591	382	251	21	9	32	13	7	20	16	.....	.....	.....

(4) *Births in Rio de Janeiro in 1898.*

Months.	Legitimate.			Illegitimate.			Total births.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
January, February, and March.....	1,406	1,275	2,681	444	416	860	3,541
April, May, and June.....	1,511	1,332	2,843	456	421	877	3,720
July, August, and September.....	1,398	1,320	2,718	435	407	842	3,560
October, November, and December.....	1,198	1,157	2,355	406	410	816	3,171
Total.....	5,513	5,084	10,597	1,741	1,654	3,395	13,992

Months.	Race.							Still births.
	Whites.		Mixed.		Colored.		Total reported.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
January, February, and March.....	1,389	1,263	251	237	53	60	3,258	272
April, May, and June.....	1,630	462	252	218	58	49	2,669	303
July, August, and September.....	1,501	1,419	228	220	58	58	3,484	252
October, November, and December.....	1,214	1,166	254	231	55	68	2,988	261
Total.....	5,734	4,310	985	906	229	219	12,399	1,088

Total of living births in 1898, 13,992; in 1897, 13,915; total of still births in 1898, 1,088; in 1897, 1,106; total of births reported in 1898, 15,080; in 1897, 15,021.

Population officially estimated, 750,000; rate per 1,000 of births, 18.6; legitimate births, 14.15; illegitimate births, 4.53; proportion of illegitimate to legitimate births, 1-3.1, or 32 per cent.

(5) *Deaths of children.*

Month.	Between 1 day and 1 month old.	Between 1 month and 1 year old.
January.....	72	210
February.....	79	199
March.....	68	234
April.....	62	163
May.....	75	178
June.....	61	157
July.....	59	166
August.....	45	175
September.....	45	108
October.....	56	115
November.....	53	182
December.....	65	187
Total.....		2,814

Ratio of the mortality of children to the general mortality, 19 per cent. Mortality of children from trismus, 1.1 per cent; athrepsy, 12 per cent. Death rate of children under one year, 18.

(6) *Meteorological observations.*

Month.	Average.							
	Atmospheric pressure.	Temperature.	Pressure of dampness.	Comparative dampness.	Fogginess.	Evaporation.	Ozone.	Rain-fall in mm.
January.....	754.85	25.70	18.9	77.7	.6	85.6	131	46.8
February.....	753.96	26.25	18.5	74.8	.5	84.8	122	140.6
March.....	754.83	24.85	18.18	78.16	.45	75.1	138	27.1
April.....	757.02	24	17.3	78.3	.55	68.6	141	23
May.....	758.55	20.9	14	77.2	1.62	74.7	100	46
June.....	760.41	21.15	14.34	77.6	.35	60.6	65	28.1
July.....	760.12	20.3	13.5	76.7	.4	66.5	102	29.2
August.....	759.79	20.67	13.4	74.4	.6	74.8	160	28.8
September.....	759.58	19.5	13.3	79.7	.8	56.1	160	131.6
October.....	758.79	20.45	13.9	78.1	.7	63.3	129	65.8
November.....	754.91	22.22	16.2	81.9	.8	63.6	149	100
December.....	755.31	24.58	14.5	77.9	.6	83.4	102	47.4

Ships inspected in the harbor of Rio de Janeiro by the medical authorities during the year 1898, 1,268 steamers and 285 sailing vessels, total, 1,553.

Movements at the quarantine station of Ilha Grande—Semester I, 49 steamers and 24 sailing vessels; Semester II, 31 steamers and 8 sailing vessels; total, 80 steamers and 32 sailing vessels.

## COLOMBIA.

*Sanitary report from Bocas del Toro.*

BOCAS DEL TORO, April 5, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival for duty at Bocas del Toro on the 3d instant per steamer *Barocoa*.

There are 3 steamers in this port at present loading fruit for Mobile and Galveston, all of which will comply with the rules for the government of vessels while at fruit ports.

I find the health conditions here very good, and I have reason to hope for the earnest cooperation of all parties here engaged in the fruit trade.

Very respectfully,

H. B. MOHR,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

*Copy of certificate issued steamship Colombia.*

BOCAS DEL TORO, UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA, April 5, 1899.

This is to certify, that I have examined the steamship *Colombia* — O. Berg, master, which arrived at Bocas del Toro April 3, 1899, from Mobile, Ala. The crew consists of 16 men, and are now in good health. Captain's wife and child on board and in good health. Said steamship *Colombia* is now in good sanitary condition. She took no passengers on board for the voyage from Mobile, and has none on board now for the return voyage. She has now on board for transportation to Mobile a cargo consisting of bananas.

After careful observation and inquiry, I believe, and so certify, that said steamship *Colombia*, her officers and crew, have complied with all the rules for the government of vessels while at fruit ports as required by the United State Marine-Hospital Service.

I further certify that the health of Bocas del Toro and the adjacent country is good, and that no infectious or contagious disease prevails here.

H. B. MOHR,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Sanitary Inspector.*